

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A self-propelled cast fishing apparatus comprising:

a support member; and

a constant torque spring (~~CTS~~) motor fixedly positioned with respect to said support member, wherein said ~~CTS~~ constant torque spring motor comprises a strip-like spring material wound onto at least one storage drum and at least one output drum and imparts a propulsion force for propelling an article of fishing tackle from said support member; and

motive force translation means for translating the rotational force of said at least one output drum during a release phase of a casting cycle to a linear propulsion force applied to the article of fishing tackle, wherein said motive force translation means comprises a draw cord having a first end wound onto a draw cord spool and a second end attached to a pusher member that pushes the article of fishing tackle along said support member, wherein said draw cord spool is coaxially mounted with respect to said at least one output drum such that said draw cord spool rotates in conformity with the rotation of said at least one output drum.

2. (Original) The self-propelled cast fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein said support member comprises a hollow barrel tube having a distal open mouth end from which the article of fishing tackle is propelled.

3. (Original) The self-propelled cast fishing apparatus of claim 2, wherein said barrel tube includes a distal open mouth from which that article of fishing tackle is propelled, said self-propelled cast fishing apparatus further comprising a flexible pull-out line support member attached to said barrel tube and extending distally beyond the open mouth end.

4. (Original) The self-propelled cast fishing apparatus of claim 3, wherein said line support member comprises a telescopically extensible rod-like member supporting an apertured eyelet.

5. (Currently Amended) The self-propelled cast fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein said ~~CTS~~ constant torque spring motor comprises a strip-like spring material wound onto at least one storage drum and at least one output drum.

6. (Original) The self-propelled cast fishing apparatus of claim 5, wherein said spring material comprises a pre-stressed metallic band having a persistent spiral curvature conforming to said at least one storage drum.

7. (Original) The self-propelled cast fishing apparatus of claim 5, wherein said spring material is stored on said at least one storage drum prior to and following a casting cycle.

8. (Currently Amended) The self-propelled cast fishing apparatus of claim 5, wherein said ~~CTS~~ constant torque spring motor imparts the propulsion force during a release phase of a casting cycle during which said spring material rotatably unwinds from said at least one output drum onto said at least one storage drum.

9. (Original) The self-propelled cast fishing apparatus of claim 8, wherein said spring material is back wound from said at least one storage drum onto said at least one output drum during a loading phase of a casting cycle.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The self-propelled cast fishing apparatus of claim ~~12~~ 1, wherein said support member comprises a hollow barrel tube, said self-propelled cast fishing apparatus further comprising a slider member couple to said pusher member, wherein said slider member provides

external access to said pusher member such that said pusher member may be urged by a user into loaded position within said barrel tube.

14. (Original) The self-propelled cast fishing apparatus of claim 13, wherein said barrel tube includes a longitudinal slot through which said slider member is coupled to said pusher member.

15. (Original) The self-propelled cast fishing apparatus of claim 14, wherein said longitudinal slot is disposed along the bottom longitudinal edge of said barrel tube.

16. (Original) The self-propelled cast fishing apparatus of claim 14, further comprising a loading handle attached to said slider member, wherein said loading handle is manually movable along said longitudinal slot to urge said pusher member to the loaded position.

17. (Original) The self-propelled cast fishing apparatus of claim 16, wherein said loading handle includes means for disengaging said loading handle from said slider member prior to the release phase of a casting cycle.

18. (Original) The self-propelled cast fishing apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a cast actuator having latch release means for releasing said slider member from a latched position such that said pusher member pushes said article of fishing tackle toward an open mouth end of said barrel tube.

19. (Original) The self-propelled cast fishing apparatus of claim 18, wherein said article of fishing tackle is attached to a fishing line, said self-propelled cast fishing apparatus further comprising a reel for retrievably maintaining a fishing line onto which said article of fishing tackle is attached, wherein said reel includes line release means for mechanically releasing the fishing line from the spool.

20. (Original) The self-propelled cast fishing apparatus of claim 19, wherein said cast actuator comprises an external push button lever that sequentially actuates said line release means and

said latch release means such that the fishing line is released from the spool prior to said slider member being released from its latched position.

21. (Currently Amended) A casting system comprising:

a tubular support member having a distal open mouth end from which an article of fishing tackle is propelled; ~~and~~

a constant torque spring (CTS) motor fixedly positioned with respect to said tubular support member, wherein said CTS constant torque spring motor comprises a strip-like spring material wound onto at least one storage drum and at least one output drum and imparts a propulsion force for propelling the article of fishing tackle from said tubular support member; and

motive force translation means for translating the rotational force of said at least one output drum during a release phase of a casting cycle to a linear propulsion force applied to the article of fishing tackle, wherein said motive force translation means comprises a draw cord having a first end wound onto a draw cord spool and a second end attached to a pusher member that pushes the article of fishing tackle along said tubular support member, wherein said draw cord spool is coaxially mounted with respect to said at least one output drum such that said draw cord spool rotates in conformity with the rotation of said at least one output drum.

22. (Original) The casting system of claim 21, further comprising a flexible pull-out line support member attached to said tubular support member and extending distally beyond the open mouth end.

23. (Original) The casting system of claim 22, wherein said line support member comprises a telescopically extensible rod-like member supporting an apertured eyelet.

24. (Currently Amended) The casting system of claim 21, wherein said ~~CTS~~ constant torque spring motor comprises a strip-like spring material wound onto at least one storage drum and at least one output drum.

25. (Original) The casting system of claim 24, wherein said spring material comprises a pre-stressed metallic band having a persistent spiral curvature conforming to said at least one storage drum.

26. (Original) The casting system of claim 24, wherein said spring material is stored on said at least one storage drum prior to and following a casting cycle.

27. (Currently Amended) The casting system of claim 24, wherein said ~~CTS~~ constant torque spring motor imparts the propulsion force during a release phase of a casting cycle during which said spring material rotatably unwinds from said at least one output drum onto said at least one storage drum.

28. (Original) The casting system of claim 27, wherein said spring material is back wound from said at least one storage drum onto said at least one output drum during a loading phase of a casting cycle.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The casting system of claim ~~31~~ 21, further comprising a slider member coupled to said pusher member, wherein said slider member provides external access to said pusher member such that said pusher member may be urged by a user into a loaded position within said tubular support member.

33. (Original) The casting system of claim 32, wherein said tubular support member includes a longitudinal slot through which said slider member is coupled to said pusher member.

34. (Original) The casting system of claim 33, wherein said longitudinal slot is disposed along the bottom longitudinal edge of said tubular support member.

35. (Original) The casting system of claim 33, further comprising a loading handle attached to said slider member, wherein said loading handle is manually movable along said longitudinal slot to urge said pusher member to the loaded position.

36. (Original) The casting system of claim 35, wherein said loading handle includes means for disengaging said loading handle from said slider member prior to the release phase of a casting cycle.

37. (Original) The casting system of claim 32, further comprising a cast actuator having latch release means for releasing said slider member from a latched position such that said pusher member pushes said article of fishing tackle toward an open mouth end of said tubular support member.

38. (Original) The casting system of claim 37, wherein said article of fishing tackle is attached to a fishing line said casting system further comprising a reel for retrievably maintaining a fishing line onto which said article of fishing tackle is attached, wherein said reel includes line release means for mechanically releasing the fishing line from the spool.

39. (Original) The casting system of claim 38, wherein said cast actuator comprises an external push button lever that sequentially actuates said line release means and said latch release means such that the fishing line is released from the spool prior to said slider member being release from its latched position.